THE WASHINGTON POST
A 28 *Thursday, June 13, 1968*

# Sirhans Described By Lawyer

MIAMI, Fla., June 12 (AP) —An exiled former Fidel Castro army officer said today that Sirhan Sirhan, accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, told him before Kennedy's death, "What we need in the United States is another Fidel Castro."

The exile, Jose Duarte, said he had argued with Sirhan and scuffled with him.

Duarte told a news conference the incident occurred about three weeks ago in a house in Hollywood, Calif. He said he recognized Sirhan as the man he scuffled with when Sirhan's picture appeared in newspapers after Sen. Kennedy's death.

He said he reported the incident to Hollywood authorities and identified a police photo of Sirhan.

Duarte said the man he fought with told him he was an Arab.

"He said what we (Cuban exiles) are doing is just what the Israelites are doing and that we are getting the same help from the CIA that Israel is getting," Duarte said.

The scuffling began, Duarte said, "When he accused me of being an agent of the CIA."

Duarte said: "He made some derogatory remarks about Cuba and about me and we came to grips. Somebody separated us. He left."

# *Cuban Tells Of Scuffle With Sirhan*

By Yuval Elizur
Special to The Washington Post

JERUSALEM—The family of Sirhan Sirhan, the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was a lonely one with few intimate friends, according to Anton Jasir, a family friend.

In an interview, Jasir, a prominent East Jerusalem attorney, said he had handled several legal actions that the father, Beahara Salameh Sirhan, brought against his neighbors. These mainly concerned property in the village of Taibeh, where the elder Sirhan lives.

Beshara Sirhan is a man always ready to fight for his rights, the lawyer said. He was the sole heir of his father and now owns two houses in the village and some large olive groves. The house he lives in now was built only recently, when Sirhan came back from America the second time. The rest of the family has lived in the United States since 1957.

Jasir recalled that the Sirhan family was secretive, and that visitors to their home were not welcome unless invited.

Sirhan Sirhan, the suspect in the Kennedy slaying, was a quiet boy, according to Jasir. The elder Sirhan also is gentle and courteous, the lawyer said, but he can fly into a rage when he feels his rights are being violated.

Meanwhile, the elder Sirhan has asked Israeli authorities to help him prepare for his forthcoming trip to the United States. No difficulties are expected.

However, some Israeli officials have expressed apprehension lest Sirhan's trip be exploited by Arab groups for propaganda purposes.